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Approved For Release 2002/08/20 : CIA-RDP68B00724R000100080062-5

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

NRO REVIEW COMPLETED

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20 October 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR: Comptroller, National Reconnaissance Office
SUBJECT : Construction at Edwards Air Force Base

1. The recent approval of the U-2R procurement dictated a review of responsibilities and procedures necessary for the orderly development, test and operational use of this aircraft. One major consideration was to determine where the flight tests will be conducted. The 3 choices were Palmdale, Edwards AFB [redacted] Edwards was by far the most logical and the least expensive to use, and it has been chosen as the test site.

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2. A review of the facilities available at North Base revealed that a limited amount of construction and rehabilitation will be necessary to support the test phase in addition to the normal activity. The major portion of this involves the instrument lab which was included in the FY 67 program in the amount [redacted]. In our memorandum of 14 October 1966, we requested a release of these funds and an authorization to start construction. In addition to the instrument lab, it will be necessary to effect certain other improvements to accomodate the test activity concurrently with normal operations. The base engineer estimates the total additional cost [redacted] for the following improvements.

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a. Hanger #3 is presently used as a warehouse, but is the only space available to be used as a hanger for the U-2R and for the LAC tech reps and the test equipment. It will be necessary to provide this building with new power lines and install compressed air lines, in addition to general rehabilitation to provide shops, offices, and necessary work space. Costs are estimated [redacted]

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b. The present electrical distribution system at North Base cannot absorb the additional load required by the test program. It will be necessary to install new wiring and transformers capable of bringing additional power from the Main Base to North Base. Cost is estimated [redacted]

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c. Hanger #3 is presently located outside the secure area. It will be necessary to relocate the security fence, provide additional lighting, and add one new guard post. Costs are estimated [redacted]

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d. It is estimated that it will cost [redacted] asphalt paving to improve the ramp space and taxi ways which are presently inadequate for continued aircraft use.

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3. As we have stated in the past, the procurement of the U-2R is not expected to result in significant increases in the cost of the IDEALIST program. The program should continue at the same general level except for the amounts specifically authorized for the procurement of the aircraft. The instrument lab was previously programmed and would be required in any event. The requirement for an additional [redacted] directly attributable to the U-2R program, can be made available by reprogramming within the FY 67 IDEALIST program. The approval of the U-2R means that certain modifications which had been planned for the U-2C may no longer be required. We are presently reviewing both programs to determine what can be eliminated, and we are confident that we can effect savings which equal or exceed the cost of the facilities improvements at North Base. Our initial assessment is that these costs can probably be met by deferring (and perhaps discontinuing) modifications which have been planned for the wing tanks in the U-2C fleet.

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4. In view of the above, it is requested that you release the funds previously programmed for the instrument lab, and approve program adjustments [redacted] from [redacted] airframes to construction within the IDEALIST budget for FY 67. This would reduce our total requirement for airframes (as stated in our memorandum of October 14) to [redacted] it would increase the total authorization for [redacted] construction [redacted] The total IDEALIST program would remain [redacted]

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[redacted]
Director of Reconnaissance, CIA

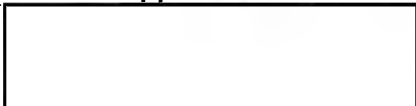
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Signature recommended:

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Director of Special Activities

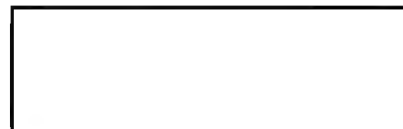
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Compt/OSA:  (20 Oct 66)

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